

<http://www.cnn.com/2010/WORLD/meast/01/12/Iran.bahai.trial/>

Leonard Leo, **U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom** chairman, said his group is "extremely concerned about the fate of the seven" -- who risk facing the death penalty.

"It appears that the Iranian government has already predetermined the outcome, and is once again using its courts as an instrument of religious persecution in blatant violation of international human rights law," Leo said.

"We commend the U.S. government on its strong statement of today and we urge the international community to put the Iranian government on notice that they will be held to account should the sham trial continue this week."